



Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

December 9, 2016

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Gov. Hutchinson, Arkansas Department of Education Announce Availability of 3 Documentaries that Highlight the Role of Women in Computer Programming

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to announce that Arkansas teachers will have access to three documentaries that feature the ground-breaking role that women had in the development of computer programming.

ADE entered into the first statewide agreement with First Byte Productions, LLC to make the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) Programmers Project videos available to all Arkansas K-12 educators. Kathy Kleiman, owner of First Byte Productions and founder of the ENIAC Programmers Project, discovered the ENIAC programmers as a Harvard undergraduate and a female programmer in search of role models and inspiration.

“The ENIAC programmers are inspirations to us all,” Kleiman said. “Their stories open the doors to careers in technology for everyone, especially young women.”

The ENIAC Programmers Project includes three documentaries: *The Computers*, *The Coders*, and *The Future Makers*.

- *The Computers* documentary tells the 1946 story of the six young women who programmed the ENIAC, which was the first all-electronic, programmable computer. The ENIAC was a secret World War II project designed to assist the military in calculating thousands of ballistics trajectories. These female “computers” were able to produce the desired result from this never-before-seen machine without a programming language, without a compiler and even without a manual.
- *The Coders* documentary tells the story of two women whose technologies revolutionized the Internet: the inventor of Flash, the first multimedia platform supporting video, graphics, games and animation for the Internet, and the inventor of the Java servlet, which allows web applications to respond quickly to requests from users everywhere.
- *The Future Makers* documentary shares the story of a PhD graduate from MIT who tells of her dream of a world where people interact with their smart devices using natural hand gestures,

not static keyboards or touchpads.

“I am pleased that the Arkansas Department of Education has reached an agreement to share educational videos about the top secret ENIAC program during WWII with Arkansas students,” said Gov. Asa Hutchinson. “The story of the six women who programmed the world’s first computer is one that will serve to motivate and inspire our students as we seek to increase the number of Arkansans who pursue degrees in computer science and other STEM fields.”

These three documentaries will be made available to teachers via the ArkansasIDEAS learning management system: <http://ideas.aetn.org/>. Teachers are encouraged to use these videos to encourage their students to engage in these fields. The videos can be shown in other limited venues by calling the ADE Computer Science Unit at (501) 682-0459.

“Sharing these videos with the students of Arkansas will not only support the statewide growth of computer science education overall, it also will demonstrate to females and minorities that computer science and other STEM fields are not just an area that is for them but is a career choice in which they, as history has shown, have the opportunity to be leaders and trailblazers,” said Anthony Owen, the ADE state director of computer science education.

This agreement was made possible through the work of the ADE Computer Science Unit and as part of the \$5 million computer science grant provided by Gov. Hutchinson and the Arkansas General Assembly.

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